

GEF SGP Final Report

For period

16/06/14 – 29/08/2015

SECTION A. PROJECT DETAILS
1. Project Number: TRI/SGP/OP5/Y3/CORE/BD/14/06
2. Project Title: Marine Protected Area Co-management Capacity Building in NE Tobago
3. Name of Grant Recipient: Environmental Research Institute Charlotteville
4. Address of Grant Recipient: Shark Shacks, North Side Road Campbellton, Charlotteville, Tobago
5. Location of Project: NE Tobago
6. Name of Person preparing the Report: Aljoscha Wothke
7. Total amount of funds approved under the MOA: US\$ 50,000
8. Date of signature of the MOA: 16 June 2014
9. Project starting date: Originally planned: 16 June 2014 Actual: 06 July 2014
10. Project completion date: Originally planned: 30 September 2015 New: 29 August 2015
11. Duration of Project: 12.5 months
12. Period covered by the report: 16/06/14 – 29/08/2015

SECTION B: PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION
<p>Main Objectives (<i>Insert main objectives as stated in the project proposal</i>)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • to train community members in the identification of community stakeholder concerns and views about their marine resources and the future MPA within 12 months after project start; • to conduct 96 community talks informing and updating community members or groups about the state of their marine resources and the future MPA within 12 months after project start; • to make equipment and material necessary for conducting biodiversity data collection using the Reef Check and other methodologies available to six persons for the duration of the project and beyond; • to offer training to six persons that enhances their capacity to meaningfully contribute to the co-management of marine resources and the future MPA; • to establish a data base of biological data taken within the future MPA over a period of eight months.
<p>Implementation Summary</p> <p>ERIC successfully fulfilled all obligations made towards facilitating the capacity-building of participants as well as completing all promised monitoring programmes within the proposed timeframe. No additional funding was required to complete all aspects of the project. In-fact, ERIC increased its in-kind contribution to better facilitate the needs of the participants in the form of additional training days and sponsored medical assessments. Additionally more participants than anticipated were facilitated in theoretical and First Aid Training. Within budget, ERIC increased the number of trained Reef Check Experts from one person to nine persons. Also a total of 67 dives instead of 60 anticipated dives were conducted. Due to medical reasons only three PADI Advanced certifications were issued, the remaining funds were used to facilitate a final evaluation WS.</p> <p>ERIC created project and funder visibility through media articles, fb posts and a youtube channel</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PADI Advanced Diver • Reef Check Training of Trainers (ToT) 	<p>(Annex 9). Mr D. Mc Kenna was unable to conclude the course due to persisting medical reasons. Ms C. Osmond successfully completed the theoretical training and 30% of the open water training. She was unable to complete the training at the end of March and July due to temporary medical reasons. ERIC funded her visit to an ENT which along with the extra training days, which has been included as in-kind from ERIC. ERIC will facilitate Ms. Osmond once her condition has been resolved.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Three out of the four certified Open Water divers successfully concluded training in the PADI Advanced Open Water course over the course of four days (Annex 10). Ms Susan Suchit could not participate due to medical reasons and will complete this certification once her condition changes. • Originally, funding was allocated to send one ERIC member to Florida to receive Reef Check Eco Diver and Eco Diver Training of Trainer certification; six community members would receive training from this candidate. Fortunately, ERIC procured Reef Check Course Director, Ms Nicole Ordway to conduct the Reef Check course in Tobago. With the allocated funds, Ms Ordway stayed for 5 days at ERIC and certified nine Reef Check Eco Divers, three Reef Check Eco Diver Trainers, and ERIC as a Reef Check certified facility. One of the original six participants was unavailable for the course. In his stead, Mr. Rupert McKenna, the president of Speyside Eco Marine Park Rangers (SEMPR) participated (Annex 11). Ms. Chelsea Osmond completed the theory component of the Reef Check training. Once she concludes the PADI Open Water course, ERIC will facilitate the remainder of her Reef Check training. ERIC is now the only certified Reef Check Facility in the English speaking Southern Caribbean and the only Facilitator of Reef Check Eco Expeditions in the Caribbean; Reef Check is the official reef monitoring protocol of the United Nations. http://reefcheck.org/news/news_detail.php?id=1072 Therefore, instead of one Eco Diver trainer and six Eco Divers, three Eco Diver Trainers and nine Eco Divers were certified.
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<p>2c. Marine Monitoring</p>	<p>principles of reef ecology tailored to NE Tobago underwater environment was presented. Additionally, ecology of other marine ecosystems that will be affected by implementation of a MPA was introduced. There was an average of 83% attendance for the sessions by the participants. Mr. Bock and at least two students from Speyside High School attended these sessions as well. Their attendance was not included in the attendance average.</p> <p>2c. A total of 67 research dives were conducted, over 24 monitoring events at 12 sites. Abundance of lobsters, lionfish and other indicator species as well as negative impacts on the marine environment and pH were recorded (Annex 25). Sedimentation and recruitment of benthic organisms were not monitored due to the need for additional training. These will be monitored with subsequent grants.</p> <p>A total of 60 Reef Check dives were conducted, over 16 dives events at 12 sites. Of the 16 dive events, 2 were used as refresher sessions whilst one dive was attempted but had to be aborted due to boat-mechanical problems. Gathered data were entered into a database and submitted to Reef Check Head Quarters in California. Each dive produced 4 reports – fishes, invertebrates, impacts and substrates (Annex 24). Inconsistencies in the data recorded by the participants were recognised upon verification. To ensure repeatability of the data being collected, the remaining Reef Check dives were used as training sessions to ensure consistency and accuracy in data collection.</p> <p>Fifteen of eighteen seabird counts were completed on Little Tobago, St. Giles and Sisters Rock. (Annex 26) Upon the request of the UNDP, Sustain T&T was facilitated for filming. As a result of this, three counts were used. From the experience, ERIC learnt that equipment upgrade, more training and modified monitoring methods were needed to obtain repeatable and confident data.</p> <p>ERIC established databases for entering data recorded from all marine monitoring events. This database is available for access by any interested</p>
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<p>3. Administration, Reporting, Evaluation</p>	<p>party.</p> <p>Complementary activities were executed with funding from the British High Commission of Trinidad and Tobago (BHC TT). These included leadership training, team building and project evaluation. Seven mentorship sessions were also conducted which included communication, email etiquette and event planning. Additionally, 60 research dives were completed in the period of May 2014 to February 2015 by ERIC. These dives involved installation of the transect markers at eight locations as well as biotic surveys along transects utilising the Reef Check method.</p> <p>ERIC also secured US\$ 5,000 in complimentary funding from the Organisation of American States (OAS). They supported 36 research diving activities including reconnaissance of two dive sites, of which one site was established for Reef Check surveys. Additionally a community workshop was conducted, hosting twenty persons of various stakeholder groups were in attendance. These included representatives from the NSC, THA and community groups of NE Tobago village councils, NGOs, businesses, dive operators, THA divisions as well as the GEF UNDP programme.</p> <p>3. ERIC composed a newspaper article for submission to media houses in Trinidad and Tobago. The Newsday and Tobago News published the article (Annexes 27 - 29). Additionally, Reef Check featured an article written by trainer Nikole Ordway-Heath on the Reef Check training received, in its newsletter "The Transect Line – January/ February 2015". It can be viewed on Reef Check's website at http://reefcheck.org/news/news_detail.php?id=1072.</p>
<p>Difficulties/Issues Encountered: <i>Provide a brief description of new developments and unexpected difficulties/problems which should be noted as well as steps being taken to resolve them.</i></p> <p>1. Community Talks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Despite training in community talks and conducting mock interviews, the participants encountered problems filling the report forms by themselves. More time might have been needed to conduct additional mock interviews. • The lag time between completion of the talks and hosting of the feedback workshop was too long for a fully satisfactory evaluation. The date was continuously set back due to the 	

unavailability of the participants and facilitators.

- Interpreting data from the report forms was difficult. Data entry should have been done with the participants upon submission of report forms.
- Participants expressed that they had difficulty discussing basic concepts of a MPA with persons being interviewed. Integrating refresher sessions on topic into the community talks training may have assisted the participants to provide better information to their community members.

2. Marine monitoring

2b. Training and Capacity Building

- No problems were encountered during the marine ecology and MPA training. However, retention of information was limited. This was recognised when participants were asked questions about marine ecology and MPAs periodically. Participants requested additional refresher sessions with the next funding possible.
- To improve retention levels, we recommend to include trainees in delivering training sessions.

2c. Marine Monitoring

- Nine Reef Checks were carried out with the participants in which verification of the data raised questions on its validity. A review comparing the trainers' data, tallying methods and identification of impacts to those of the trainees' revealed that additional sessions were needed to ensure that data collection is consistent.
- Reef Check markers were previously installed to establish a permanent monitoring site. There was concern that surveying in a single area did not allow for an assessment of other parts of the reef. It was determined that roving Reef Checks should be conducted to facilitate this assessment. Areas showing significant bleaching and/ or diseased corals would be marked for continuous observation and advanced studies.
- An audit of the bird count method is needed to ensure consistency and accuracy of data collection.

General Issues

- Miscommunication between ERIC staff regarding the allocation of stipends to the participants occurred. As a result, participants were slightly over paid for some activities. To prevent this in the future, a clear breakdown, payment schedule and agreement at the start of the project should be prepared.
- One participant expressed dissatisfaction in the stipend received for reef surveys despite the provision of a concise listing of all stipends on 19 February 2015. Larger stipends were allocated under the BHC TT in contrast to the UNDP grant. To avoid confusion, the participants should be informed of the sponsor at each activity. A flat fee should be assigned for each activity regardless of the sponsor. To ensure transparency at disbursement, receipts should have a clear breakdown of the stipend earned.
- The executive of SEMPR expressed that reports on the capacity-building and stipends should be submitted by ERIC. Since this is not ERIC's role, ERIC should make clear its function and the role of the participants at the beginning of the project in writing. Furthermore, the participants should be reminded that it was their onus to report their activities to their organisation.
- Lack of communication among participants, lack of initiative and over-reliance on

individuals often occurred. Cohesion within the group during disagreements decreased at times. Continuous mentoring is required in areas such as communication, leadership, conflict resolution and team-building.

- English and/ or computer literacy is limited amongst some participants. Training in these areas should be provided to build competency in anticipation of their participation in co-management with the implementation of the MPA.
- Several of the participants lacked confidence in expressing themselves in a formal public setting. Training in public speaking and further exposure to public fora will increase their confidence.

Budget

- Overall ERIC incurred a financial loss of TT\$ 2,467.52 due to the implementation of the project and contributed additional TT\$ 17,763.30 in-kind value (fully matching the SGP contribution).

Assessment of project achievements to date based on indicators in project workplan/logframe: Provide status updates of the GEF OP5 indicators which were identified for the project and can be found in the project proposal (Annex A of final MOA).

See 2015-08-26 ERIC Evaluation Activity for Final Report GEF Annex 22

Biodiversity (BD)

- Hectares of (future) protected areas influenced: Marine biodiversity monitoring activities (Reef Check, Sea Bird and Research Dives) were conducted in an area covering approximately 100ha.
- Total value of biodiversity products/ecosystem services produced (US dollar equivalent):
The commercial value to implement this project is estimated at approximately US\$ 100,000

Policy Influence, Capacity Development & Innovations (all focal areas)

- Number of community-based environmental monitoring systems demonstrated
One marine monitoring system has successfully been demonstrated

Livelihoods & Sustainable Development (all projects)

- Number of participating community members (gender disaggregated):
Seven males fully
Two females fully
Four females partly

Activities Planned for the next Disbursement: NA	Resources required (<i>financial and otherwise</i>): NA
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Requests*: *If you require additional technical assistance, revision in project duration or activities¹ or budget variation², it should be indicated under this section and the rationale and reasons indicated.*
None

Additional Remarks (optional): *Any noteworthy experiences/lessons learnt that would be useful for the implementation of similar projects*
See Issues Encountered

*¹ **Please attach an Updated Project Schedule (See Annex 4)** (showing changes or updates to approved schedule e.g. activity status, any changes to activity start/end dates and durations, changes to planned project completion date). [Note: the project schedule can be found in Annex A of the MOA].

*² **Please attach an Updated Project Budget, if necessary** (showing changes to approved budget e.g. variations in categories of expenditures). [Note: the Project Budget can be found in Annex B of the MOA]

